

Duxbury Clipper April 24, 1980

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## Duxbury Rural & Historical Society

The lantern that you see at the head of this column is the new logo of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society, carefully copied from a drawing of one of the original lanterns given to the Town of Duxbury by the Rural Society about the turn of the century. The Rural Society, organized, as firmly stated in the bylaws, "for the betterment of the town," did not plan to take on such improvement all by itself; so the deed of gift included a proviso that the town light and maintain the lanterns (there were several), presumably with a small boy to climb the poles each evening, who could occasionally adjust and clean the wicks.

The Rural Society did more. It bought a watering trough for the hard-working draught horses hauling materials to the shipyards along the waterfront. More significant in lasting benefit to the town, it purchased the open land along Tremont St., opposite The First Parish Church, Town Hall, and Partridge Academy so that no unworthy structure should be erected opposite to lessen the dignity of the important buildings of the town. The open space has grown up to pine forest now, tying in with the green belt conception of the present era of conservation. Nor was this all, for the Rural Society acquired wooded acreage and a carriage road circling Round Pond west of Tremont St. adjoining the Duxbury Town Forest.

Thus the start of the society which after the turn of the century enlarged its title to include "historical" and its purpose to preserve the remembrance of our past for the generations to come.

In subsequent weeks this column will continue the story of your society, keep you up-to-date on present programs and discuss future projects. In early issues, we will highlight some more recent history and bring you up-to-date on the many activities in prospect for the summer months.